

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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66

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /119 W
----- 049844

R 061500Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2584

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0280

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI AO SF

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN AIRCRAFT IN LUANDA

LISBON, KINSHASA AND PRETORIA ALSO FOR DATT

REF: A. LUANDA 0248; B. LUANDA 0273

1. IN COURSE OF JUNTA MEMBER COSTA GOMES' PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 4 (REF B) HE WAS ASKED TO EXPLAIN PRESENCE IN LUANDA OF SOUTH AFRICAN "CANBERRA" MILITARY PLANES. COSTA GOMES SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THEY "WERE NO LONGER IN LUANDA." HE THEN ASKED FELLOW JUNTA MEMBER NETO (PAF GENERAL) IF HE HAD ANYTHING TO ADD. NETO SAID HE THOUGHT PLANES HAD LEFT; HE UNDERSTOOD THEY HAD BEEN HERE ON A ROUTINE VISIT, NOT FOR OPERATIONAL PURPOSES, JUST AS PAF AIRCRAFT OCCASIONALLY VISIT SOUTH AFRICA.

2. MAY 5 PRESS OMITTS COSTA GOMES' PART OF REPLY AND NETO IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT AS HE WAS LANDING IN LUANDA HE SPOTTED TWO SOUTH AFRICAN AIRCRAFT ON THE GROUND. HE ADDED THEY ARE (SIC) HERE ON A ROUTINE VISIT.

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3. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO SOUTH AFRICAN CONSUL GENERAL, AIRCRAFT

IN FACT HAVE LEFT. SOUTH AFRICAN CONGEN ALSO VOLUNTEERED HIS
OPINION THAT TIMING OF CANBERRAS' PRESENCE HERE WAS "HIGHLY
UNFORTUNATE." HE INSISTS THEY WERE ON "ROUTINE VISIT" ALTHOUGH
WE WERE EARLIER TOLD BY HIGH COMMAND SOURCE THAT THEY WERE
BEING USED OPERATIONALLY, IN SUPPORT OF PAF. RELIABLE SOURCE
(NOT IN HIGH COMMAND) REPORTS THERE WERE 30 SOUTH AFRICAN
AIRFORCE PERSONNEL STAYING IN PAF BOQ AT LUANDA AIRBASE AS OF
MAY 4, AND THAT CANBERRAS WERE BROUGHT HERE AS DETERRENT TO
ZAIRE.
BRIGGS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Executive Order: GS
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30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
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